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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184478

ROME FOR MOOSE ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MOOSE, RICHARD M.)

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS - JULY 10, 1978

FOR MOOSE FROM HARROP

1. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ERITREA--

THE ERITREAN SITUATION REMAINS RELATIVELY UN-
CHANGED, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SUCCESSES ON EITHER
SIDE. A RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORT INDICATES THAT SOME
2,000 CUBAN GARRISON TROOPS ARE LOCATED IN ASMARA.
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THESE FORCES ARE USED SOLELY AS GUARDS FOR VITAL IN-
STALLATIONS AND DON'T ACCOMPANY ETHIOPIAN TROOPS ON
THEIR PATROLS OR IN COMBAT SITUATIONS. SOME CUBAN
FORCES ARE ALSO AT MASSAWA AND ASSAB, BUT ARE STATIONED
THERE NOT AS UNITS BUT IN SPECIFIC SUPPORT SLOTS
(ADVISORS, INSTRUCTORS, DRIVERS, ETC. QUANTITY NOT
KNOWN). SOME 4,100 ADDITIONAL CUBAN TROOPS ARE PRESENT
IN REGIONS BORDERING ERITREA.

SOMALIA-THE OGADEN--

THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME DIMINISHING OF REPORTS OF ARMS CLASHES BETWEEN OGADEN INSURGENTS AND ETHIOPIAN FORCES. IT IS PREMATURE, HOWEVER, TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE REDUCTION IN ARMED CONFLICT. SINCE THE "AT LEAST TWO WEEKS" DELAY YOU TOLD ADDOU ABOUT JULY 3 HAS PASSED, WE ARE PREPARING A WHERE-DO-WE-GO-FROM-HERE OPTIONS PAPER FOR THE SECRETARY. ADDOU HAS DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE IN ORDER TO CATCH TEN MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY'S POST-EUROPEAN TRIP TIME. CONGRESSMEN LEGGETT AND DUNCAN HAVE RETURNED FROM MOGADISCIO URGING US TO GO FORWARD WITH A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM, DELIVER A TOKEN SHIPMENT OF ARMS, BUT CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY VIA US CORPS OF ENGINEERS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FINANCED BY THE SAUDIS (WHO WERE, HOWEVER, LUKEWARM TOWARD THE IDEA).

SOMALIA-SHIP VISITS--

THE SOMALIS HAVE TOLD US THEY WOULD WELCOME NAVY SHIP VISITS (OBVIOUSLY FOR THEIR SYMBOLIC VALUE). WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A RELATIVELY LOW-COST WAY OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE RELATIONSHIP, AND HAVE SENT A MEMO TO THE ACTING SECRETARY RECOMMENDING THAT WE SCHEDULE A VISIT
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IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

GENERAL HILL'S VISIT TO NAIROBI--

ON JULY 17 GENERAL HILL PRESENTED THE SURVEY TEAM REPORT TO THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT AND OUTLINED PROBABLE USG PARTICIPATION IN KENYA'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. EMBASSY NAIROBI BELIEVES THE VISIT IS GOING WELL AND THAT THE GOK WILL REACT FAVORABLY TO OUR PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY THE HELICOPTER/TOW PACKAGE. IN WASHINGTON THE QUESTION OF EXACTLY WHERE THE ADDITIONAL \$12 MILLION IN FY 1978 FMS CREDITS FOR KENYA WILL COME FROM HAS NOT YET BEEN DEFINITELY SETTLED.

THE UPI STRINGER IN NAIROBI HAS FILED A STORY ON GENERAL HILL'S "SECRET" VISIT. THE STORY HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP AND WE ARE TAKING THE POSITION THAT THERE IS NOTHING SECRET ABOUT THE VISIT.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA RELEASES DETAINED SPANISH MISSIONARIES--

PRESIDENT MACIE BANNED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH LAST MONTH AND ARRESTED THE LAST SPANISH PRIESTS REMAINING IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, DEMANDING A \$4 MILLION EKUELE (\$57,000) RANSOM FOR THEIR RELEASE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE RANSOM WAS ACTUALLY PAID, BUT THE PRIESTS WERE EXPELLED JUNE 28

AND MET WITH OUR VICE CONSUL IN DOUALA JULY 3. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT MISTREATED DURING THEIR BRIEF INCARCERATION, THEY WERE CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING AND PASSING SECRETS DURING CONFESSION (IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT AS CATHOLIC BROTHERS THEY COULD NOT HEAR CONFESSIONS.) THE MISSIONARIES REPORTED THAT LIFE IN MALABO CONTINUES TO BE GRIM, PLAGUED WITH SHORTAGES AND INFLATION. LESS THAN TWO DOZEN WESTERNERS REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY, WHILE CUBANS, RUSSIANS, AND CHINESE ARE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE. THEY
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ALSO CONFIRMED PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 10,000 MEN WERE FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THE MAINLAND TO WORK ON THE COCOA PLANTATIONS OF MACIE NGUEMA ISLAND (FORMERLY FERNANDO PO). PRESIDENT MACIE IS, NO DOUBT, PLEASED WITH HIS LATEST ACTION WHICH ELIMINATES ANOTHER VESTIGE OF THE COLONIAL PAST THAT COMPETED FOR THE LOYALTY OF THE POPULATION.

GABON PAYS UP--

AFTER MONTHS OF BUREAUCRATIC AND BANKING CONFUSION THE GABONESE GOVERNMENT FINALLY MADE PAYMENT ON ITS FMS ARREARS, TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY \$50,000. PRESIDENT BONGO INTERVENED TWICE PERSONALLY, IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, DRAWING FUNDS ON HIS OWN ACCOUNT IN ORDER TO INSURE PAYMENT. HOWEVER, IMPROPER PRACTICES ON THE PART OF A LIBREVILLE BANK, INEPT GOG DEBT MANAGEMENT, AND ERRORS MADE BY THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT BANK ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE LONG DELAY. THE SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS NOW PAVES THE WAY FOR THE SIGNING OF GABON'S FY 78 FMS CREDIT OF \$2 MILLION, THE THIRD AND LAST LOAN TO GABON FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

CAMEROON SIGNS FMS ACCORD--

ON JULY 13, AMBASSADOR BENOIT BINDZI SIGNED THE LOAN DOCUMENTS FOR \$5 MILLION IN FY-78 FMS FINANCING, FORMALLY ADDING A NEW DIMENSION TO US-CAMEROONIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE CREDIT WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE RECOILLESS RIFLES, JEEPS, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND A V-150 ARMORED CAR RECOVERY VEHICLE.

RWANDA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL COLLOQUIUM--
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TWENTY PARTICIPANTS FROM SIX AFRICAN STATES (RWANDA, BURUNDI, ZAIRE, IVORY COAST, CAE, AND CHAD) MET IN BUTARE, RWANDA JULY 30 TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FRANKLY EXCHANGING VIEWS, THE PARTICIPANTS

FOCUSSED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN
FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. CONTRASTING TRADITIONAL AND MODERN

SOCIETIES, THEY COMPARED LOCAL CHECKS AND BALANCES ON
TRADITIONAL CHIEFS TO UNENCUMBERED MODERN PRESIDENTS;
DEBATED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; AGREED THAT INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS INHERENT IN VILLAGE AND TRIBAL SOCIETY ARE NOT
WELL PROTECTED IN THE MODERN STATE; AND CITED THE
NEED TO ADJUST EUROPEAN-TYPE LEGAL CODES TO AFRICAN
REALITIES.

ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIVELY EXCELLENT, THE MEETING WAS MOST
NOTABLE, IN THE VIEW OF THE PARTICIPANTS, BY ITS VERY
OCCURRENCE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE IVORIAN APPEALS COURT
SUMMED UP THIS FEELING AS HE THANKED THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT
FOR ITS COURAGE AND FORESIGHT IN RISKING TO HOST THE
COLLOQUIUM WITH SUCH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS IN AFRICA.

PERHAPS THE MOST ENDURING BENEFIT OF THE CONFERENCE
WILL BE THE CROSS FERTILIZATION OF IDEAS AMONG THE
VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS AS THEY BUILD BOTH PROFESSIONALLY
AND PERSONALLY ON THE CONTACTS MADE IN BUTARE. ALREADY
EVIDENT IN THIS REGARD IS THE INTENTION OF THE RECTORS
OF THE RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES OF RWANDA, BURUNDI, AND
ZAIRE TO COORDINATE MORE CLOSELY, EXCHANGE VISITING
PROFESSORS, AND SHARE PUBLICATIONS.

ORGANIZERS OF THE COLLOQUIUM WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT MORE
NATIONS WERE NOT REPRESENTED. MOST OF THE NO-SHOWS WERE
DUE TO AIRLINE AND OTHER LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS (MALI,
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SENEGAL) OR UNOBTAINED DEPARTURE PERMISSION (UPPER VOLTA,
CONGO, TOGO).

BOKASSA NAMES NEW GOVERNMENT--

RETURNING TO BANGUI FROM ALMOST TWO MONTHS IN FRANCE,
EMPEROR BOKASSA I MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO UNDERLINE HIS
PERVASIVE POLITICAL CONTROL BY DISMISSING THE GOVERNMENT
OF AILING PRIME MINISTER ANGE PATASSE AND ASKING HENRI
MAIDOU (TWIN BROTHER OF THE CAE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US)
TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. MAIDOU IS WELL AND FAVORABLY
KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY WHICH JUDGES HIM VERY ABLE, CAUTIOUS,
AND PRAGMATIC. PREVIOUSLY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HE HAS
ALSO SERVED EFFECTIVELY AS ACTING PRIME MINISTER FOR THE
PAST TWO MONTHS. NONETHELESS, THE EXTENT OF HIS DECISION-
MAKING AUTHORITY AND LEEWAY FOR INDEPENDENT ACTION HAVE
YET TO BE DETERMINED.

ZAIRE-STATUS OF THE KOLWEZI MINES--

IN GECAMINES' FIRST MONTH OF PRODUCTION FOLLOWING THE

ATTACK ON KOLWEZI, COPPER AND COBALT PRODUCTION HAVE REACHED NEAR CAPACITY LEVELS. THIS RAPID RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION IS THE MORE REMARKABLE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT MUCH ASSISTANCE FROM EXPATRIATES. THAT THE ZAIRIAN STAFF HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION AT THIS LEVEL FOR A MONTH LENDS CREDENCE TO MOBUTU'S CLAIM IN LATE MAY THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY EXPATRIATES IN KOLWEZI. HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE ZAIRIAN STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THESE HIGH LEVELS OF PRODUCTION OVER A LONG PERIOD WITHOUT THE TECHNICAL DIRECTION, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ON SECRET

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MINING EQUIPMENT AND EMERGENCY PROBLEM SOLVING WHICH THE EXPATRIATES PROVIDED.

IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS WILL BE NEEDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MOBUTU ORDERED THE SUSPENSION OF ALL EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM KOLWEZI AND DISPATCHED THE ZAIRIAN HEAD OF GECAMINES TO PARIS TO SEE WHETHER THE FRENCH WERE WILLING TO PROVIDE EXPATRIATES. SOCIETE GENERALE DE MINERAIS (SGM), WHICH IS GECAMINES' AGENT CURRENTLY PROVIDES THE COMPANY WITH EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL, HAS BEEN INFORMALLY REQUESTED TO RECRUIT A STAFF OF UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE PREVIOUS LEVEL. (APPROXIMATELY 450 EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS WERE PRESENT IN KOLWEZI WHEN THE KATANGANS ATTACKED.)

PANAM TO SUSPEND PASSENGER SERVICE TO ZAIRE--

ON JULY 17 PANAM INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE THAT AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE IT WOULD SUSPEND PASSENGER SERVICE TO AND FROM KINSHASA AS OF AUGUST 31. THE AIRLINE HAS TAKEN THIS ACTION AS A RESULT OF ITS INABILITY TO REMIT PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES AND PAYMENTS FROM ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. PANAM HAS INDICATED IT WOULD BE WILLING TO REVIEW ITS DECISION ONCE ZAIRE PROVIDED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO COVER PANAM'S LOCAL CURRENCY DEPOSITS.

MILITARY "DISENGAGEMENT" IN NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT--

FOLLOWING WHAT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN LONG AND COMPLICATED MEETINGS OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) IN NIGERIA, HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO ANNOUNCED THAT, AS OF JULY 24, MOST OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS SERVING IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REASSIGNED TO PURELY MILITARY DUTIES. THE DECISION AFFECTS ALL 19 MILITARY STATE GOVERNORS AND FOUR OF THE SIX MILITARY COMMISSIONERS OF

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FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS. AMONG THE LATTER APPEAR TO BE BRIG. GARBA (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) AND COLS. ALI

(EDUCATION), MAGORO (TRANSPORT) AND BUHARI (PETROLEUM). GARBA WILL BECOME COMMANDANT OF THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY. SMC MEMBERS ABOVE THE RANK OF BRIGADIER (INCLUDING OBASANJO AND YAR'ADUA) WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1979, AND WILL THEN RETIRE FROM THE MILITARY.

THE MILITARY GOVERNORS WILL BE REPLACED BY "MILITARY ADMINISTRATORS" DRAWN FROM THE RANKS OF NAVAL AND AIR FORCE BRIGADE AND GARRISON COMMANDERS; APPARENTLY THE NIGERIAN ARMY WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATORS. EACH ADMINISTRATOR WILL HAVE A CIVILIAN DEPUTY.

OBASANJO EXPLAINED THE MOVE AS THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS OF DISENTANGLING THE MILITARY, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE ARMY, FROM GOVERNMENT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE HEAD OF STATE STATED THAT THE BAN ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND ACTIVITY REMAINS IN FORCE, THUS SPIKING THE RUMORS THAT THE BAN WAS ABOUT TO BE LIFTED.

UPPER VOLTA - NEW GOVERNMENT NAMED--

THE LONG-AWAITED NEW UPPER VOLTAN GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED JULY 16. THIS DECREASES CONSIDERABLY THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE VOLTAN ARMY MIGHT MOVE AGAINST THE NEW CIVILIAN REGIME. HOWEVER, SEVERAL OBSTACLES LIE AHEAD FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ELEVENTH HOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OPPOSITION GROUP OF LEFTIST PROFESSOR KI-ZERBO FAILED TO
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INDUCE HIM TO JOIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, DESPITE THE OFFER OF THE LABOR AND HIGHER EDUCATION PORTFOLIOS. AS A RESULT, THE 19-MEMBER CABINET IS MADE UP EXCLUSIVELY OF LAMIZANA SUPPORTERS, EIGHT OF THEM RETAINED FROM THE PREVIOUS CABINET. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA LOYALISTS ALSO HOLD A TENUOUS EDGE (29 TO 28) IN THE 57-MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FURTHERMORE, LAMIZANA COULD LOSE HIS "MAJORITY," IF THE SUPREME COURT RULES UNFAVORABLY IN THE CASE OF A PRO-LAMIZANA DEPUTY WHERE ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES HAVE BEEN MADE.

II. ISSUES TO WATCH

PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TO THE US--

PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR BERGUS THAT HE PLANS TO MAKE AN "EXTENDED TOUR" OF THE US FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE UNGA. AS NOW SCHEDULED, NIMEIRI WILL ADDRESS THE UN ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 10. HE WILL

BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON. IDEALLY THIS VISIT COULD BE TERMED A "WORKING VISIT" AND WOULD ENTAIL ACCOMMODATING NIMEIRI AT BLAIR HOUSE, A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, A LUNCHEON AT THE DEPARTMENT, AND A DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE. S/S IS PROPOSING TO THE SECRETARY THAT NIMEIRI BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT AND THEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZE THE TREATMENT WHICH THE OAU CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ACCORDED BY THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN THEY COME TO THE UNGA. ONCE THE SECRETARY HAS TAKEN A POSITION ON THIS QUESTION, WE WILL MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO HOST NIMEIRI IN WASHINGTON. THE SUDAN-US BUSINESS COUNCIL, CHEVRON AND OTHER US FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUDAN HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED NIMEIRI VISIT SO THAT THEY CAN ARRANGE APPROPRIATE COURTESIES.

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SOUTH AFRICA - BUTHELEZI VISIT--CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI, LEADER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ZULUS, AND WHOSE INKATHA MOVEMENT SEEKS TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN NATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WILL BE VISITING THE US IN AUGUST. HE PLANS A MAJOR ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE IN LOS ANGELES ON THE 8TH, AND WILL BE ON THE EAST COAST, INCLUDING WASHINGTON, BETWEEN ABOUT THE 10TH AND 15TH. WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT HE HOPES TO SHARE HIS CURRENT THINKING ON SOUTH AFRICA WITH SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY IF POSSIBLE; HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND, HOWEVER, TO SEEK A SECOND MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH SY ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

REGIONAL RAINFALL SHORTAGES IN WESTERN AFRICA--

THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM OF THE CENTER FOR CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (CCEA) HAS REPORTED SERIOUS RAINFALL SHORTAGES IN THE WESTERN SAHEL AND ALONG THE GULF OF GUINEA FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE. UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE, THE 1978 RAINFALL SEASON WAS OFF TO A GOOD START ACROSS MOST OF THE REGION, BUT VERY DRY WEATHER AT THE END OF JUNE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERED ACCUMULATED RAINFALL TOTALS. IN THE WESTERN SAHEL (WESTERN MALI, SOUTHERN MAURITANIA, CENTRAL SENEGAL, AND THE GAMBIA) RAINFALL AMOUNTS ARE LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE LONG-TERM AVERAGE. SMALL LOCALIZED DROUGHTS EXIST IN SOUTHERN

NIGER. GUINEA-BISSAU, IVORY COAST, TOGO AND BENIN ARE ALSO RECORDED AS HAVING RECEIVED LESS THAN 40 PERCENT OF THEIR HISTORIC AVERAGE. ANOTHER FEW WEEKS OF SIMILARLY DRY CONDITIONS COULD DRASTICALLY ALTER THIS YEAR'S CROP OUTLOOK. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THERE IS A

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POSSIBILITY THAT THE LOCUSTS NOW SWARMING IN THE HORN MAY POSE A THREAT TO WEST AFRICA IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, IF NORMAL MIGRATION PATTERNS ARE FOLLOWED.

NIGERIAN POLITICS - THE LIBYAN CONNECTION--

A SOURCE CLOSE TO POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WAZIRI IBRAHIM HAS TOLD OUR EMBASSY THAT LIBYAN LEADER MU'AMMAR QADHAFI IS SUPPLYING A STEADY FLOW OF MONEY TO THE POLITICAL ALLIANCE DEVELOPING AROUND SHEHU SHAGARI, INUWA WADA AND AMINU KANO, ALL PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE OLD MUSLIM HAUSA/FULANI ESTABLISHMENT. IT IS NOT AT ALL UNLIKELY THAT QADHAFI IS OR COULD EASILY BE PREVAILED UPON TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY. HOWEVER, THE SOURCE, A CHRISTIAN ALLIED WITH THE ONLY PROMINENT MUSLIM HOLDOUT FROM THE SHAGARI/WADA/KANO AXIS, WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN EXAGGERATING THE LIBYAN ROLE. WHATEVER THE EXTENT OF THE "LIBYAN CONNECTION," IT IS A POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE DUE TO THE CONTINUING MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN TENSIONS FOLLOWING THE CONFRONTATION IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OVER THE SHARIA COURT ISSUE.

SWAZILAND - TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE--

THE SWAZI GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING A MAJOR CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO MARK THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE. IT HAS NOT YET ISSUED INVITATIONS FOR A US DELEGATION, BUT SOON WILL. OUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THESE CEREMONIES WILL ENJOY AN UNUSUAL ENTREE INTO THE CLOSE-KNIT AND TRADITIONAL SWAZIS' ROYAL INNER CIRCLE; HE COULD BE IN A POSITION TO ARTICULATE OUR VIEWS WITH SPECIAL EFFECT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MAY WISH TO AVOID AN EXCESSIVELY CONSPICUOUS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HIGHLY PERSONAL RULE OF KING SOBHUZA AT THIS PRESUMABLY LATE POINT IN HIS REIGN (HE TURNED 79 THIS

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MONTH). AF/S RECOMMENDS TENTATIVELY PLANNING ON RESPONDING TO A SWAZI INVITATION AT THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL IF IT CAN BE SQUARED WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS AND ITINERARIES.

MASERU HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM--

THE UN SYMPOSIUM ON EXPLOITATION OF BLACKS AND PRISON CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA NOW BEING HELD IN LESOTHO HAS SO FAR BEEN LESS ACRIMONIOUS THAN WE

FEARED. THE UN SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY FEELINGS AMONG SOME DELEGATES THAT THE SYMPOSIUM'S "SCRIPT HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN ADVANCE" AND WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE SESSIONS FROM DETERIORATING INTO RHETORICAL EXCHANGES OF BIAS. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SYMPOSIUM HAS BEEN STRANGELY SUBDUED OR EVEN DISTRACTED, WITH A MARKED ABSENCE OF MANIFESTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES OR EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO THE SPEAKERS AND A PRO FORMA ASPECT TO SOME OF THE INTERVENTIONS. AMBASSADOR NORLAND BELIEVES MANY OF THE REMARKS REFLECT A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA; HE WILL JOIN THE DISCUSSIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY WITH A STATEMENT GENERALLY OUTLINING US POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA INCLUDING REFERENCE TO THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT NOW REACHED AND ITS PROVISIONS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ON BOTH SIDES.

OAU--

THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) AND SUMMIT MEETINGS CONTINUE TO BE DOMINATED BY SOMETIMES HEATED DEBATE ON
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MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, BUT THE CONFEREES (CLEARLY DOMINATED BY A WELL-ORGANIZED "MODERATE" BLOC) ARE AVOIDING SPECIFIC CONDEMNATIONS OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN A SERIES OF DRAFT COM RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING TRADITIONAL OAU COMPROMISE LANGUAGE. TO DATE, THE COM HAS APPROVED FOR REFERRAL TO THE SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ON:

-- RHODESIA, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE;

-- MEDIATION EFFORTS (SUDAN-ETHIOPIA, ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA, AND CHAD-LIBYA) REFERRING THESE TO THE SUMMIT;

-- AN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA;

-- THE MIDDLE EAST, SUPPORTING THE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE, BUT AVOIDING ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGES;

-- WESTERN SAHARA, REFERRING THAT ISSUE TO THE SUMMIT;

-- A PAN-AFRICAN MILITARY FORCE, REFERRING THAT ISSUE

TO THE OAU DEFENSE COMMISSION FOR FURTHER STUDY;

-- TRADITIONAL OAU PRECEPTS REJECTING FOREIGN BASES AND MILITARY ALLIANCES, AND REAFFIRMING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-ALIGNMENT, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN DISPUTES AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

AS EXPECTED, A SOMALI-SPONSORED MOVE TO READ CUBA OUT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WAS BURIED. FEW IF ANY AFRICANS WILL SUPPORT SUCH A PROPOSAL AT THE UP-COMING NAM MEETINGS IN BELGRADE (JULY 24-29). FRANCE, CUBA AND THE USSR CAME IN FOR THEIR SHARE OF KNOCKS DURING DEBATE, BUT HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN ATTACKED DIRECTLY IN COM RESOLUTIONS. ONE REPORT HAS IT THAT TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER KOJO HAS THE SECRET

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INSIDE TRACK IN THE RACE FOR OAU SECRETARY GENERAL.

THE SUMMIT OPENED JULY 18 WITH 34 HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN ATTENDANCE, A RECORD OR NEAR RECORD FOR OAU CONCLAVES. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE SUMMIT, PRESIDENT NEMEIRI LAID THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA AT THE DOOR OF UNNAMED FOREIGN INTERVENORS, CALLED UPON AFRICANS TO CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES WHICH ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, AND TO STRENGTHEN PEACEKEEPING AND OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION. PRESIDENT OBASANJO OF NIGERIA, IN REPLYING TO NEMEIRI'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS, ECHOED THE SUDANESE PRESIDENT BY STATING THAT CUBAN-SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED, BUT SHOULD NOT BE TOO PROLONGED EITHER: VIZ., THEY SHOULD NOT OVERSTAY THEIR WELCOME. WITHOUT NAMING FRANCE AND BELGIUM, OBASANJO ALSO CRITICIZED THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THEIR INTERVENTION IN SHABA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

IN SUM, EMBASSY KHARTOUM AND OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE OAU MEETINGS ARE MARKED BY UNUSUAL AGGRESSIVENESS AND COHESIVENESS AMONG OAU "MODERATES" LED BY SENEGAL, THE IVORY COAST AND EGYPT. THE SO-CALLED "PROGRESSIVES" APPEAR TO BE IN DISARRAY. THE RESULT HAS BEEN AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS AIMED AT PREVENTING POLARIZATION AND RETAINING AT LEAST THE FACADE OF INTRA-AFRICAN UNITY. BEST OF ALL, NONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS BEING CONSIDERED AT KHARTOUM SEEM LIKELY TO HARM OUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES. (SEE KHARTOUM 3268) VANCE

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Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
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SAS ID: 1857627
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Subject: WEEKLY ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS - JULY 10, 1978
TAGS: OVIP, (MOOSE, RICHARD M)
To: ROME
Type: TE
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